

Each Other's Devils

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THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA IN WORLD AFFAIRS. By Robert Blum. Edited and with a preface by A. Doak Barnett. Foreword by Allen W. Dulles. (The United States and China in World Affairs edited by Robert Blum and Lucien Pye, vol. 5.) 304 pages. Published for the Council on Foreign Relations by the McGraw-Hill Book Co. \$6.50.

The conclusions reached in "The United States and China in World Affairs" by the late Robert Blum, who had been President of the Asia Foundation and before that Director of the U. S. Aid Mission to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, are essentially what we have been hearing for some time now from Senators and others.

"It is essential," writes Blum, "to bring United States policy into line with existing realities before the isolation of the American position makes current policies even more untenable." Therefore, the United States should recognize the People's Republic of China as soon as there is a sign that recognition will be accepted, we should abandon our trade embargo against China, and we should urge the United Nations to accept the People's Republic as the representative of China and the Republic of

China as the representative of Taiwan. Blum recognizes that the immediate effect of such an arrangement might be a U.S. with no China rather than a U.N. with two, but he maintains that it would nevertheless be advantageous in the long run.

At the same time, "it is essential to deter possible Chinese aggression and check the expansion of Chinese influence . . ." and "the military danger from China cannot be overlooked. . . ." In short, Blum advocates for both countries sort of wary hostility in place of the present attitudes in which the United States and China are little more (and little less) than each other's devils.

Blum's book is a volume in a continuing series called "The United States and China in Foreign Affairs" published for the Council on Foreign Affairs "under the general guidance of a Steering Committee which Allen Dulles (former head of the C. I. A.) is Chairman." Its author died in the summer of 1965 before the manuscript had been put in final form and the published version is edited by A. Doak Barnett of Columbia University.

Blum arrives at his conclusions by a process that will bring little new information to those who have followed the newspapers for the past 15 years or so. His discussion, moreover, is marred by

disingenuousness and a sort of double vision.

Thus while he dates the unremitting hostility between China and the United States from the Korean War, he never makes clear to a reader who does not already know just why Chinese troops entered the conflict. A reference to China's fear of a hostile state on her borders is particularly tricky; it is impossible to tell whether South Korea, the United States or both is meant. Blum does not say straight out that Chinese troops did not enter until it looked to their government as though American troops might establish themselves on or even beyond the Chinese-North Korean border.

Similarly, sub rosa Chinese activity against legitimate foreign governments is called "subversion" while the United States is said to have carried out "actions" in countries like Laos. Above all no attention is paid to the reasons for the relative success of left-wing authoritarianisms and the relative failure of their right-wing counter parts, though there is some talk about the need for dealing with the area's enormous social and economic problems.

Thus, though Blum's suggestions for changes in our diplomatic policy are contributions to realism, his discussion of conditions beyond diplomacy leaves something to be desired.